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EXAMINER

HAMZA, FARUK

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2155

DATE MAILED: 04/04/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/058,082

Applicant(s)

KATAOKA ET AL.

Examiner

Faruk Hamza

Art Unit

2155

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 January 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 29 January 2002 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is responsive to the application filed on January 29, 2002. Claims 1-20 are now pending.

Specification

2. A substitute specification in proper idiomatic English and in compliance with 37 CFR 1.52(a) and (b) is required. The substitute specification filed must be accompanied by a statement that it contains no new matter.

Claim Objections

3. Claims 3,11-16 are objected to because of the following informalities: claims recite "including or includes" instead of "which including or includes". Claims 14-16 recite, "information received" instead of "which received". Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

4. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

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5. Claims 19 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. Claims are directed to a data signal embodied in a carrier wave. A data signal is not tangible and does not belong to one of the statutory categories. See MPEP 2106.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

6. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) and the Intellectual Property and High Technology Technical Amendments Act of 2002 do not apply when the reference is a U.S. patent resulting directly or indirectly from an international application filed before November 29, 2000. Therefore, the prior art date of the reference is determined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

7. Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Ross, Jr. et al. (U.S. Patent Number 6,629,135) hereinafter referred as Ross.

8. Ross has disclosed:

- <Claim 1>

A server device comprising:

a user-information storage section which stores in advance user information regarding at least one user to be a new member of a system;
(Column 4, lines 63-65)

a communications section which sends and receives predetermined information to and from at least one user terminal through a communications network; (Column 4, lines 61-63)

an input-form sender which sends input-form information for inputting ID (identification) information for identifying said at least one user in a predetermined ID-form, to said at least one user terminal through said communications section; (Column 12, lines 7-9)

an ID-information receiver which receives the ID information from said at least one user terminal through said communications section, in association with said input-form information sent by said input-form sender; (Column 12, lines 1-13)

an information acquirer which acquires the user information corresponding to said at least one user from said user-information storage section, in association with the ID information received by said ID-information receiver; (Column 12, lines 11-19)

a member-form sender which sends member-form information for inputting member information in a predetermined member-form together with the user information acquired by said information acquirer, to said at least one user terminal through said communications section; (Column 12, lines 7-13)

a member-information receiver which receives the member information, sent from said at least one user terminal in association with said user information and member-form information sent by said member-form sender, through said communications section; and (Column 12, lines 7-13)

a member-information storage section which stores the member information received by said member-information receiver. (Column 12, lines 11-13)

- <Claim 2>

A server device comprising:

a user-information storage section which stores in advance user information regarding at least one user to be a new member of a system; (Column 4, lines 63-65)

a communications section which sends and receives predetermined information to and from at least one user terminal and at least one sales-staff terminal which are connected with each other through a communications network; (Column 12, lines 7-13; Column 13, lines 24-29)

an input-form sender which sends input-form information for inputting ID information for identifying said at least one user in a predetermined ID-input form, to said at least one user terminal through said communications section; (Column 12, lines 7-9)

an ID-information receiver which receives the ID information sent from said at least one user terminal in association with the input-form information sent by said input-form sender, through said communications section; (Column 12, lines 7-13)

an information acquirer which acquires the user information corresponding to said at least one user from said user-information storage section, in association with the ID information received by said ID-information receiver; (Column 12, lines 11-19)

a member-form sender which sends member-form information for inputting member information in a predetermined member form together with the user information acquired by said information acquirer, to the at least one user terminal through said communications section; (Column 12, lines 7-13)

a member-information receiver which receives the member information, sent from said at least one user terminal in association with the user information and the member-form information sent by said member-form sender, through said communications section; (Column 12, lines 7-13)

a member-information storage section which stores the member information received by said member-information receiver; and (Column 12, lines 11-13)

a member-information sender which sends the member information received by said member-information receiver to said at least one sales-staff terminal through said communications section. (Column 12, lines 7-13)

- <Claim 3>

The server device according to claim 2, wherein:

each of said input-form sender and said member-form sender sends a Web page including form information to said at least one user terminal; and (Column 11, lines 65-67; Column 12, lines 1-9)

said member-information sender sends an e-mail including the member information received by said member-information receiver to said at least one sales-staff terminal. (Column 6, lines 16-23)

- <Claim 4>

The server device according to claim 2, further comprising

a staff-information storage section which stores information regarding at least one sales staff, in association with the user information stored in said user-information storage section, and (Fig. 1; Column 4, lines 61-65)

wherein said information acquirer acquires the user information corresponding to the at least one user from said user-information storage section, and acquires the information regarding said at least one sales staff from said staff-information storage section, and (Column 6, lines 17-23; Column 11, lines 66-67; Column 12, lines 1-3)

said member-information sender sets, as addressee, an e-mail address included in the information regarding said at least one sales staff and acquired by said information acquirer, and sends an e-mail including the member information acquired by said member-information receiver to said at least one sales staff terminal. (Column 12, lines 22-27; Column 6, lines 21-23)

- <Claim 5>

The server device according to claim 3, further comprising a staff-information storage section which stores information regarding at least one sales staff, in association with the user information stored in said user-information storage section, and (Fig. 1; Column 4, lines 61-65)

wherein said information acquirer acquires the user information corresponding to the at least one user from said user-information storage section, and acquires the information regarding said at least one sales staff from said staff-information storage section, and (Column 6, lines 17-23; Column 11, lines 66-67; Column 12, lines 1-3)

said member-information sender sets, as addressee, an e-mail address included in the information regarding said at least one sale staff and acquired by said information acquirer, and sends an e-mail including the member information acquired by said member-information receiver to said at least one sales staff terminal. (Column 12, lines 22-27; Column 6, lines 21-23)

- <Claim 6>

The server device according to claim 2, further comprising:

a confirmation-form sender which sends confirmation-form information for confirming whether to send the member information received by said member-information receiver to said at least one sales staff, to said at least one user terminal through said communications section; and (Column 20, lines 40-41; Column 24, lines 62-65; Column 25, lines 4-8)

a confirmation-information receiver which receives confirmation information sent from said at least one user terminal in association with the confirmation-form information sent by said confirmation-form sender, through said communications section, and (Column 20, lines 40-41; Column 24, lines 62-65; Column 25, lines 4-8)

wherein said member-information sender sends an e-mail including the member information received by said member-information receiver to said at least one sales-staff terminal, only in a case where said confirmation-information receiver receives the confirmation information for confirming whether to send the

member information to said at least one sales staff. (Column 20, lines 40-41;
Column 24, lines 62-65; Column 25, lines 4-8)

- <Claim 7>

The server device according to claim 3, further comprising:

a confirmation-form sender which sends confirmation-form information for confirming whether to send the member information received by said member-information receiver to said at least one sales staff, to said at least one user terminal through said communications section; and (Column 20, lines 40-41; Column 24, lines 62-65; Column 25, lines 4-8)

a confirmation-information receiver which receives confirmation information sent from said at least one user terminal in association with the confirmation-form information sent by said confirmation-form sender, through said communications section, and (Column 20, lines 40-41; Column 24, lines 62-65; Column 25, lines 4-8)

wherein said member-information sender sends an e-mail including the member information received by said member-information receiver to said at least one sales-staff terminal, only in a case where said confirmation-information receiver receives the confirmation information for confirming whether to send the member information to said at least one sales staff. (Column 20, lines 40-41; Column 24, lines 62-65; Column 25, lines 4-8)

- <Claim 8>

The server device according to claim 4, further comprising:

a confirmation-form sender which sends confirmation-form information for confirming whether to send the member information received by said member-information receiver to said at least one sales staff, to said at least one user terminal through said communications section; and (Column 20, lines 40-41; Column 24, lines 62-65; Column 25, lines 4-8)

a confirmation-information receiver which receives confirmation information sent from said at least one user terminal in association with the confirmation-form information sent by said confirmation-form sender, through said communications section, and (Column 20, lines 40-41; Column 24, lines 62-65; Column 25, lines 4-8)

wherein said member-information sender sends an e-mail including the member information received by said member-information receiver to said at least one sales-staff terminal, only in a case where said confirmation-information receiver receives the confirmation information for confirming whether to send the member information to said at least one sales staff. (Column 20, lines 40-41; Column 24, lines 62-65; Column 25, lines 4-8)

- <Claim 9>

A method for supporting member registration, comprising the steps of:

sending input-form information for inputting ID information for identifying at least one user, to at least one user terminal through a communications network; (Column 6, lines 12-29)

receiving the ID information sent from said at least one user terminal in association with the input-form information sent at said step of sending the input-form information; (Column 6, lines 12-29)

acquiring user information corresponding to said at least one user in association with the ID information received at said step of receiving the ID information, from a first storage section which stores in advance the user information regarding the at least one user to be a new member of a system; (Column 6, lines 12-29)

sending member-form information for inputting member information in a predetermined member form together with the user information acquired at said step of acquiring the user information, to said at least one user terminal; (Column 6, lines 12-29)

receiving the member information sent from said at least one user terminal in association with the member-form information and user information sent at said step of sending the member form; and (Column 6, lines 12-29)

storing the member information received at said step of receiving the member information, in a second storage section storing information regarding at least one member. (Column 6, lines 12-29)

- <Claim 10>

A method for supporting member registration, comprising the steps of:

 sending input-form information for inputting ID information for identifying at least one user in a predetermined ID form, to at least one user terminal through a communications network; (Column 6, lines 12-29)

 receiving the ID information sent from said at least one user terminal in association with the input-form information sent at said step of sending the input-form information; (Column 6, lines 12-29)

 acquiring user information corresponding to said at least one user terminal in association with the ID information received at said step of receiving the ID information, from a first storage section which stores in advance the user information regarding said at least one user to be a new member of a system; (Column 6, lines 12-29)

 sending member-form information for inputting member information in a predetermined member form together with the user information acquired at said step of acquiring the user information, to said at least one user terminal; (Column 6, lines 12-29)

 receiving the member information sent from said at least one user terminal in association with the member-form information and user information sent at said step of sending the member-form information; (Column 6, lines 12-29)

storing the member information received at said step of receiving the member information, in a second storage section storing information regarding at least one member; and (Column 6, lines 12-29)

sending member information received at said step of receiving the member information, to at least one sales-staff terminal through a communications network. (Column 6, lines 12-29)

- <Claim 11>

The method according to claim 10, wherein:

each of said step of sending the input-form information and said step of sending the member-form information includes a step of sending a Web page including form information to said at least one user terminal; and (Column 6, lines 12-29)

said step of sending the member information includes a step of sending an e-mail including the member information received at said step of receiving the member information, to said at least one sales-staff terminal. (Column 17, lines 65-66)

- <Claim 12>

The method according to claim 10, wherein:

said step of acquiring the user information includes a step of acquiring the user information corresponding to said at least one user from said first storage

section storing in advance the user information and a step of acquiring information regarding at least one sales staff corresponding to the user information from a third storage section storing information regarding at least one sales staff; and (Fig. 1, 130a-b, 135a-d; Column 6, lines 17-23; Column 11, lines 66-67; Column 12, lines 1-3)

said step of sending the member information includes a step of setting, as addressee, an e-mail address included in the information regarding the sales staff and acquired at said step of acquiring the information and a step of sending an e-mail including the member information acquired at said step of receiving the member information to said at least one sales staff. (Column 12, lines 7-28)

- <Claim 13>

The method according to claim 11, wherein:

said step of acquiring the user information includes a step of acquiring the user information corresponding to said at least one user from said first storage section storing in advance the user information and a step of acquiring information regarding at least one sales staff corresponding to the user information from a third storage section storing information regarding at least one sales staff; and (Fig. 1, 130a-b, 135a-d; Column 6, lines 17-23; Column 11, lines 66-67; Column 12, lines 1-3)

said step of sending the member information includes a step of setting, as addressee, an e-mail address included in the information regarding the sales

staff and acquired at said step of acquiring the information and a step of sending an e-mail including the member information acquired at said step of receiving the member information to said at least one sales staff. (Column 12, lines 7-28)

- <Claim 14>

The method according to claim 10, further comprising the steps of:

sending confirmation-form information for confirming whether to send the member information received at said step of receiving the member information to said at least one sales staff, to said at least one user terminal; and (Column 20, lines 40-41; Column 24, lines 62-65; Column 25, lines 4-8)

receiving confirmation information received from said at least one user terminal in association with the confirmation-form information sent at said step of sending the confirmation-form information, and (Column 20, lines 40-41; Column 24, lines 62-65; Column 25, lines 4-8)

wherein said step of sending the member information includes a step of sending an e-mail including the member information received at said step of receiving the member information to said at least one sales-staff terminal, only in a case where the confirmation information for confirming whether to send the member information to said at least one sales staff is received at said step of receiving the confirmation information. (Column 20, lines 40-41; Column 24, lines 62-65; Column 25, lines 4-8)

- <Claim 15>

The method according to claim 11, further comprising the steps of:

sending confirmation-form information for confirming whether to send the member information received at said step of receiving the member information to said at least one sales staff, to said at least one user terminal; and (Column 20, lines 40-41; Column 24, lines 62-65; Column 25, lines 4-8)

receiving confirmation information received from said at least one user terminal in association with the confirmation-form information sent at said step of sending the confirmation-form information, and (Column 20, lines 40-41; Column 24, lines 62-65; Column 25, lines 4-8)

wherein said step of sending the member information includes a step of sending an e-mail including the member information received at said step of receiving the member information to said at least one sales-staff terminal, only in a case where the confirmation information for confirming whether to send the member information to said at least one sales staff is received at said step of receiving the confirmation information. (Column 20, lines 40-41; Column 24, lines 62-65; Column 25, lines 4-8)

- <Claim 16>

The method according to claim 12, further comprising the steps of:

sending confirmation-form information for confirming whether to send the member information received at said step of receiving the member information to

said at least one sales staff, to said at least one user terminal; and (Column 20, lines 40-41; Column 24, lines 62-65; Column 25, lines 4-8)

receiving confirmation information received from said at least one user terminal in association with the confirmation-form information sent at said step of sending the confirmation-form information, and (Column 20, lines 40-41; Column 24, lines 62-65; Column 25, lines 4-8)

wherein said step of sending the member information includes a step of sending an e-mail including the member information received at said step of receiving the member information to said at least one sales-staff terminal, only in a case where the confirmation information for confirming whether to send the member information to said at least one sales staff is received at said step of receiving the confirmation information. (Column 20, lines 40-41; Column 24, lines 62-65; Column 25, lines 4-8)

- <Claim 17>

A computer readable recording medium recording a program for controlling a computer to execute a method for supporting member registration, and said method comprising the steps of:

sending input-form information for inputting ID information for identifying at least one user, to at least one user terminal through a communications network; (Column 6, lines 12-29)

receiving the ID information sent from said at least one user terminal in association with the input-form information sent at said step of sending the input-form information; (Column 6, lines 12-29)

acquiring user information corresponding to said at least one user in association with the ID information received at said step of receiving the ID information, from a first storage section which stores in advance the user information regarding the at least one user to be a new member of a system; (Column 6, lines 12-29)

sending member-form information for inputting member information in a predetermined member form together with the user information acquired at said step of acquiring the user information, to said at least one user terminal; (Column 6, lines 12-29)

receiving the member information sent from said at least one user terminal in association with the member-form information and user information sent at said step of sending the member form; and (Column 6, lines 12-29)

storing the member information received at said step of receiving the member information, in a second storage section storing information regarding at least one member. (Column 6, lines 12-29)

- <Claim 18>

A computer readable recording medium recording a program for controlling a computer to execute a method for supporting member registration, and said method comprising the steps of:

sending input-form information for inputting ID information for identifying at least one user in a predetermined ID form, to at least one user terminal through a communications network; (Column 6, lines 12-29)

receiving the ID information sent from said at least one user terminal in association with the input-form information sent at said step of sending the input-form information; (Column 6, lines 12-29)

acquiring user information corresponding to said at least one user terminal in association with the ID information received at said step of receiving the ID information, from a first storage section which stores in advance the user information regarding said at least one user to be a new member of a system; (Column 6, lines 12-29)

sending member-form information for inputting member information in a predetermined member form together with the user information acquired at said step of acquiring the user information, to said at least one user terminal; (Column 6, lines 12-29)

receiving the member information sent from said at least one user terminal in association with the member-form information and user information sent at said step of sending the member-form information; (Column 6, lines 12-29)

storing the member information received at said step of receiving the member information, in a second storage section storing information regarding at least one member; and (Column 6, lines 12-29)

sending member information received at said step of receiving the member information, to at least one sales-staff terminal through a communications network. (Column 6, lines 12-29)

- <Claim 19>

A computer data signal embodied in a carrier wave and representing an instruction sequence for controlling a computer to execute a method for supporting member registration, and said method comprising the steps of:

sending input-form information for inputting ID information for identifying at least one user, to at least one user terminal through a communications network; (Column 6, lines 12-29)

receiving the ID information sent from said at least one user terminal in association with the input-form information sent at said step of sending the input-form information; (Column 6, lines 12-29)

acquiring user information corresponding to said at least one user in association with the ID information received at said step of receiving the ID information, from a first storage section which stores in advance the user information regarding the at least one user to be a new member of a system; (Column 6, lines 12-29)

sending member-form information for inputting member information in a predetermined member form together with the user information acquired at said step of acquiring the user information, to said at least one user terminal; (Column 6, lines 12-29)

receiving the member information sent from said at least one user terminal in association with the member-form information and user information sent at said step of sending the member form; and (Column 6, lines 12-29)

storing the member information received at said step of receiving the member information, in a second storage section storing information regarding at least one member. (Column 6, lines 12-29)

- <Claim 20>

A computer data signal embodied in a carrier wave and representing an instruction sequence for controlling a computer to execute a method for supporting member registration, and said method comprising the steps of:

sending input-form information for inputting ID information for identifying at least one user in a predetermined ID form, to at least one user terminal through a communications network; (Column 6, lines 12-29)

receiving the ID information sent from said at least one user terminal in association with the input-form information sent at said step of sending the input-form information; (Column 6, lines 12-29)

acquiring user information corresponding to said at least one user terminal in association with the ID information received at said step of receiving the ID information, from a first storage section which stores in advance the user information regarding said at least one user to be a new member of a system; (Column 6, lines 12-29)

sending member-form information for inputting member information in a predetermined member form together with the user information acquired at said step of acquiring the user information, to said at least one user terminal; (Column 6, lines 12-29)

receiving the member information sent from said at least one user terminal in association with the member-form information and user information sent at said step of sending the member-form information; (Column 6, lines 12-29)

storing the member information received at said step of receiving the member information, in a second storage section storing information regarding at least one member; and (Column 6, lines 12-29)

sending member information received at said step of receiving the member information, to at least one sales-staff terminal through a communications network. (Column 6, lines 12-29).

Conclusion

9. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to the applicant's disclosure.

- Weinreich et al. (U.S. Patent Number 6,175,831) discloses a method for constructing a networking database and system.
- Lavey, Jr. et al. (U.S. Patent Number 6,023,698) discloses system and method for transparently registering and updating information over the internet.
- Peters et al. (U.S. Patent Number 5,884,284) discloses telecommunication user account management system and method.
- Olivier (U.S. Patent Number 6,480,885) discloses a method for enabling users to exchange group electronic mail by establishing individual profiles and criteria.
- Suzuki et al. (U.S. Patent Number 6,466,915) discloses customer history management method and system in online shopping.
- Capps (U.S. Patent Number 6,771,682) discloses online service registration system and method.

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Faruk Hamza whose telephone number is 571-272-7969. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hosain Alam can be reached at 571-272-3978. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 886-217-9197 (toll -free).

Faruk Hamza

Patent Examiner

Group Art Unite 2155


HOSAIN ALAM
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER